PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLEASE REDUCE YOUR WATER USE

Amarillo, Texas - The Mayor and City Commission today asked Amarillo residents to reduce water usage, especially outdoors. The current weather conditions are unparalleled in terms of precipitation, wind and temperature and water demands have risen to new highs. The goal for the water system is an average of 74 million gallons per day, a goal which has been met only 9 times in the month of June. June has recorded 13 days over 80 million gallons of water use with two days being over 88 million gallons. Water use to this point in the year is at an all-time high and is 2.5 billion gallons more than used to this point in 2009. Most water usage is for outdoor watering, which is the area where the greatest reduction is possible.

To reduce your use, the City is asking residents to:

- Water lawns between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am with water cycles being completed by 6 am
- Water lawns 2 but not more than 3 times per week
    - If your address ends in an ODD number, water only on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
    - If your address ends in an EVEN number, water only on Mondays, Wednesday and Saturdays.

Additional information and tips for water conservation and water use are available at www.water.amarillo.gov

Your assistance and cooperation will help ensure a continued supply of water for our community both on a short- and long-term basis.

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A Look at Precipitation/Wind/Temp Stats for 2011

As of Tuesday, June 28:

- Current Yearly Precipitation Total: 1.17 inches
- Continues to be the driest start to the year on record since 1892, breaking the 2.88 inches record of 1953. Normal precipitation is 19.71 inches for the year.
- In comparison to the drought between 1952-1956:
    - 1953 held the record for the least amount of rainfall for the start of the year prior to 2011. The year ended with 13.05 inches (number 6 on the driest year). The year received most of its rainfall in August (2.0 inches) and October (4.56 inches).
    - 1956 and 1955 by the end of June were standing at 5.47 inches and 5.49 inches (ranked number 5 and 6 as the driest starts to the year). They ended with 9.94 inches and 13.71 inches for total rainfall for the year respectively, also ranking as number 5 and 6 on the driest year rankings. 1956 received most of its rainfall in June (2.03 inches) and July (2.82 inches). 1955 received most of its rainfall in July (3.35 inches) and September (3.13 inches).
- 1970 ranked number 4 for the driest starts to the year with 5.24 inches of rainfall. 1970 currently holds the record for the least amount of rainfall with 9.56 inches of rain.
- May: 19 days over 90 degrees and 3 over 100 degrees.
- June: 24 days over 90 degrees and 12 over 100 degrees and 5 days over 105 degrees.
- Amarillo has set 16 daily record high temperatures in 2011, including setting a new all time high temperature of 111 degrees on June 26th (breaking previous record of 109 degrees on June 24th, 2011).
- In comparison to the drought between 1952-1956 and the year 1970 (in regards to temperature – see graph as well):
    - 2011 saw more days in May over 90 degrees (second hottest was 1953 with 14 days) but 1953 saw one more day of 100+ degrees.
    - 1953 had more days (29 days) than currently 2011 has seen in days in June over 90 degrees. 1953 and 2011 are tied in regards to days in June over 100 degrees. **Note June data for 2011 is as of 6/28/2011.
- Total Red Flag Warning days for Potter/Randall: 43 (previous record was 35 in 2008)
- May: 14 days with wind gusts higher than 40 mph with 4 of those days gusts greater than 50mph
- June: 11 days with wind gusts higher than 40 mph with 2 of those days gusts greater than 50mph

2011 Water Use Information

- Through Monday, the system has delivered 8.8 billion gallons of water
- Through the same date in 2009, the system delivered 6.3 billion gallons of water
- This is a 40% increase in delivery rates or 2.5 billion more gallons
- 2.5 billion gallons would fill a one acre swimming pool 1.4 miles deep
- June, 2011 has:
    - 13 days over 80 million gallons delivered
    - 15 days under 80 million gallons delivered
    - 9 days that met the 74 million gallon goal and 19 that did not
- The system is performing well, but is being run at maximum capacity for an extended period and too early in the year